

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MOUNTAINEERING IN NEW-ZEALAND.  
THE HIGH ALPS OF NEW-ZEALAND. A Trip to the Glaciers of the Antipodes, with an Ascent of Mount Cook. By WILLIAM SPOTTSWOOD GREEN, M. A. 12mo. pp. xiv., 336. Macmillan & Co.

It is impossible to read this artless narrative without admiring British pluck, and hard to read it without some little amusement at the contrast between the magnitude of the labor which it describes and the modesty of the results. The author is a clergyman. After much mountaineering in Switzerland and elsewhere, he met a traveller from New-Zealand who told him something about the peaks and glaciers of that distant land, and especially about an unascended summit called Mount Cook, whose head towers above the ice at an elevation of 12,300 feet. The conquest of this "splendid peak" seemed to our aspiring preacher worth attempting; so he forthwith made arrangements for a six months' holiday, engaged two guides in Switzerland, packed a simple outfit, and took the next steamer for Australia. It was a journey, out and home again, of 24,000 miles. The three companions got off the top of Mount Cook after tremendous exertions, hardships and dangers, spent ten or fifteen minutes there in a fierce storm (of course getting no view), and then hurried back to Europe, perfectly satisfied with their exploit. One cannot help regretting that an expedition which accomplished such a difficultfeat should not have made a more serious contribution to geographical science; but we repeat that we like Mr. Green's spirit. The stolid contempt for physical obstacles, the superiority to bodily privations, the delight in confronting and conquering hostile forces of nature, which carried him through this task, are the qualities which subdue the world. These peculiarities are thoroughly English; so are his philosophical indifference to cold and wet and hunger; his solar enthusiasm for scenery, shooting, and solitude; his obstinate insistence upon batheing, or "bubbling," as he calls it, at strange times and places; and his calm, but upon the whole good-natured, assumption that everything must give way to him. He has also a characteristically English dislike to being "done," and had no sooner accomplished his great feat than he plunged with equal ardor and resolution into a lawsuit with a settler who overcharged him for the use of a team.

The ascent of Mount Cook and a visit to the great glacier at its base involved a tedious journey through bush and over moraines, beyond the last sheep ranges, and the fording of two dangerous rivers. Our party took horses as far as they could, and then had to travel about two weeks up, before they reached the beginning of the ascent, scrambling among boulders and sharp-pointed shrubs, drenched by frequent rains, and carrying on their backs tents, blankets, provisions, photographic apparatus, ropes, ice-axes, etc. They camped certainly in no great comfort; and they fared rudely and often scantily. They took all the bread they could buy at the last settlement, and when that gave out at the maturing age of twenty days they kindled a fire on the top of a boulder and baked loaves on the hot stones. They had some mutton, which they parboiled, to prevent its spoiling, and cut from the bone to save the weight. They shot ducks and parrots, which they made into soup, roasting being wasteful. They carried also a few tins of meat and sardines, a few pounds of bacon and tea—altogether about 100 pounds of provisions, besides 130 pounds of baggage. To pack such a load as this over a cruelly rough ground, in a temperature varying from extreme summer heat to bitter winter cold, was no child's play; but Mr. Green tells the story as cheerfully as if the march had been a pleasant picnic. When the actual climbing began a considerable part of the stores was deposited in a safe place to serve on the return train, and at the last stage of the ascent everything was discarded except the ropes and axes.

The interesting account of the final triumph cannot well be abridged. The first attempt made on the south side of the mountain, failed. The second, on the east side, was also unsuccessful. Then with three days' provisions, the adventurers made a hard and circuitous march to the north, and bivouacking for one night amidst the ice they reached the summit over a high glacier to which Mr. Green gives the name of the Linda. Once, at a very dangerous part of the way, they debated a retreat, but "the 4,000 miles of travelling rose in their minds as a strong argument" against surrender and they took the risk. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon there was still heavy work to do; a rapid thaw had set in, not only soaking them with water but endangering their return; a bad storm was brewing; if they went on they must spend the night in the peak without food; if they turned back they would have to go so far for provisions that it would take them a week to get back to the point where they had stood. They decided to go on. An hour's cutting of steps in the ice, in the midst of violent showers of hail, a furious deafening wind, and clouds so thick that the men were sometimes hidden from one another, brought them to the topmost crest. The real mathematical summit was a point about thirty feet higher, but to reach it would require a detour of about twenty minutes, and as their lives depended upon gaining some sort of shelter before darkness set in, the travellers agreed to neglect "what seemed a mere matter of detail," and begin the descent at once. Going down was groping their way backward; they reached at last, after dark, a ledge under a ridge of rock, and there, with thousands of feet of crevassed ice-slope below them, they resolved to spend the night. The ledge was only two feet wide, and sloped outward, and there was no chance of a good grip upon the rock behind them. To sit or move was out of the question; to fall asleep was certain death. Avalanche followed them all night; the rain streamed down; their limbs became numb; they had hard work to keep one another awake. When dawn came, "not one moment too soon," they doubted whether they had strength enough to move, or to clutch the ice-axes upon which they must now depend. Portions of their track were found to be obliterated by avalanches which had fallen since their ascent; the bridge by which they had crossed an abyss was gone; the snow was horribly soft and dangerous. When they reached their deposit of provisions (cold duck and ancient crusts) they had not tasted food for twenty-two hours, nor in all that time had they eaten down.

On their return to the settlements they were treated as conquerors. Special correspondents were sent out to intercept them in the bush; the newspapers were full of their "Ascent of Mount Cook"; and a public dinner was given in their honor. Having a few days to wait before a steamer sailed for Melbourne, they killed the time by attempting another peak, Mount Earnshaw. They did not reach it; but they accomplished a good deal of fatigue and hunger, marched far in the rain and darkness, and so no doubt enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

## New Publications.

A BOOK OF MARVELLOUS INTEREST.  
CLOUD LIGHT FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD.  
By Kate Irving. Sewing rapidly. Price 12 1/2.

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